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## SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY AND STATE LEGISLATION

SENATOR  
**SHEILA JAMES KUEHL**  
CHAIR



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **KUEHL AUTHORS BILLS TO SAFEGUARD CALIFORNIA'S LABOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS IN GLOBAL ECONOMY**

State Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-23) chair of the State Senate Select Committee on International Trade Policy and State Legislation has introduced two bills to require State officials to report to the California Legislature on ways that a variety of international trade agreements entered into by the United States could impact California's existing labor and environmental laws and regulations. The bills would also require a public hearing on each report with opportunities for public comment.

Senate Bill 1044 would require the State Director of Industrial Relations to prepare a report that analyzes the impact of international trade agreements on California labor laws and regulations. The report would be drafted in consultation with the State Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, the Senate Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, the Senate Select Committee on International Trade Policy State Legislation and the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment. The report would also be available for public review and comment for at least 30 days, after which the Department of Industrial Relations would be required to hold a public hearing, the results of which would also be made public.

Senate Bill 1111 is structured in much the same way with regard to environmental policy. The bill would require the California Secretary for Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Resources Agency to report on the impact of international trade agreements on California's existing environmental law and regulations in consultation with the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife, and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality. That report would be made available for public review and comment, followed by a public hearing, the results of which would be summarized and published.

"If California were a country, we'd have the world's sixth largest economy," says Senator Kuehl. "We are a focal point of Pacific Rim trade and an international economic player. With this bill,

we can begin to conduct publicly accessible and substantial policy discussions about how to continue to maintain our economic leadership while keeping our environment clean and our workers safe and prosperous. Although, we cannot substitute our state's will for our country's national policy, we can certainly be vigilant that none of our state's laws are undone by international agreements which get far less scrutiny than national legislation and no public input. What's at stake is California's ability to maintain long-term environmental safety and economic health, not only for investors, but also for our workforce."

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